

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Please replace the third full paragraph on page 4, beginning on line 16 and continuing onto page 5 through line 5 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

"Referring now to the drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate corresponding parts throughout the drawings, FIG. 1 is a block diagram that portrays a diagram of a network that illustrates the flexibility, expandability, and platform independence in which the present billing system may be implemented. Referring to FIG. 1, a series of telephones (11a, 11b) and terminals (12 and 17) are connected to a server computer 14 via network 16. The network 16 may be, for example, but is not limited to, a dial-in network, local area network (LAN), wide area network (WAN), public switched telephone network (PSTN), Intranet, Internet, Ethernet type networks, and the like. Telephones (11a, 11b) and terminals (12 and 17) may be located within a LAN, WAN, PSTN, Intranet, Internet, Ethernet type networks, or the like. It should be noted that the number of client computers and server computers may differ from the number presently illustrated. Further, it should also be noted ~~that~~, that the preferred embodiment of the invention describes the functionality provided by a server computer 14."

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 10 (lines 15 through 20) of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

"Illustrated in FIG. 4 is a process flow of the future rate changes system 50 of the present invention. First, the future rate changes system 50 is initialized at step 51. At step 52, the future rate changes system 50 then determines whether the rate ~~changes~~ a single rate change ~~change should be applied to a single customer~~. If it is determined at step 52 that this rate change is a single rate, then the new customer rate plan is input at step 53 and verified at step 54. The future rate changes system 50 then determines whether the contract effective date is to be queued (step 55). If it is determined that the contract effective date is to be queued, then the future rate changes system 50 inputs the current ~~data date~~, the effective contract date, and changes the rate plan at step 56, and skips to step 65."

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 11 (lines 1 through 4) of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

"However, if it is determined at step 55 that the contract effective date is not to be queued, then the future rate changes system 50 requests input of the effective contract change ~~data date~~ at step 57. After accepting input of the effective contract change date, the future rate changes system 50 then proceeds to step 63."

Please replace the second full paragraph on page 11 (lines 5 through 10) of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

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"However, if it is determined at step 52 that the rate change is not a single rate change, then the future rate changes system 50 proceeds to step 61 to accept input of the old and new customer rate plans. At step 62, the effective contract change date of the next billing cycle date is input ~~at step 63~~. At step 63, the future rate changes system 50 then ~~send the a~~ flag to ~~the~~ change the rate plan at the indicated future date and proceeds to step 65."